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SECRET WARS II
CONTINUES IN THIS ISSUE!
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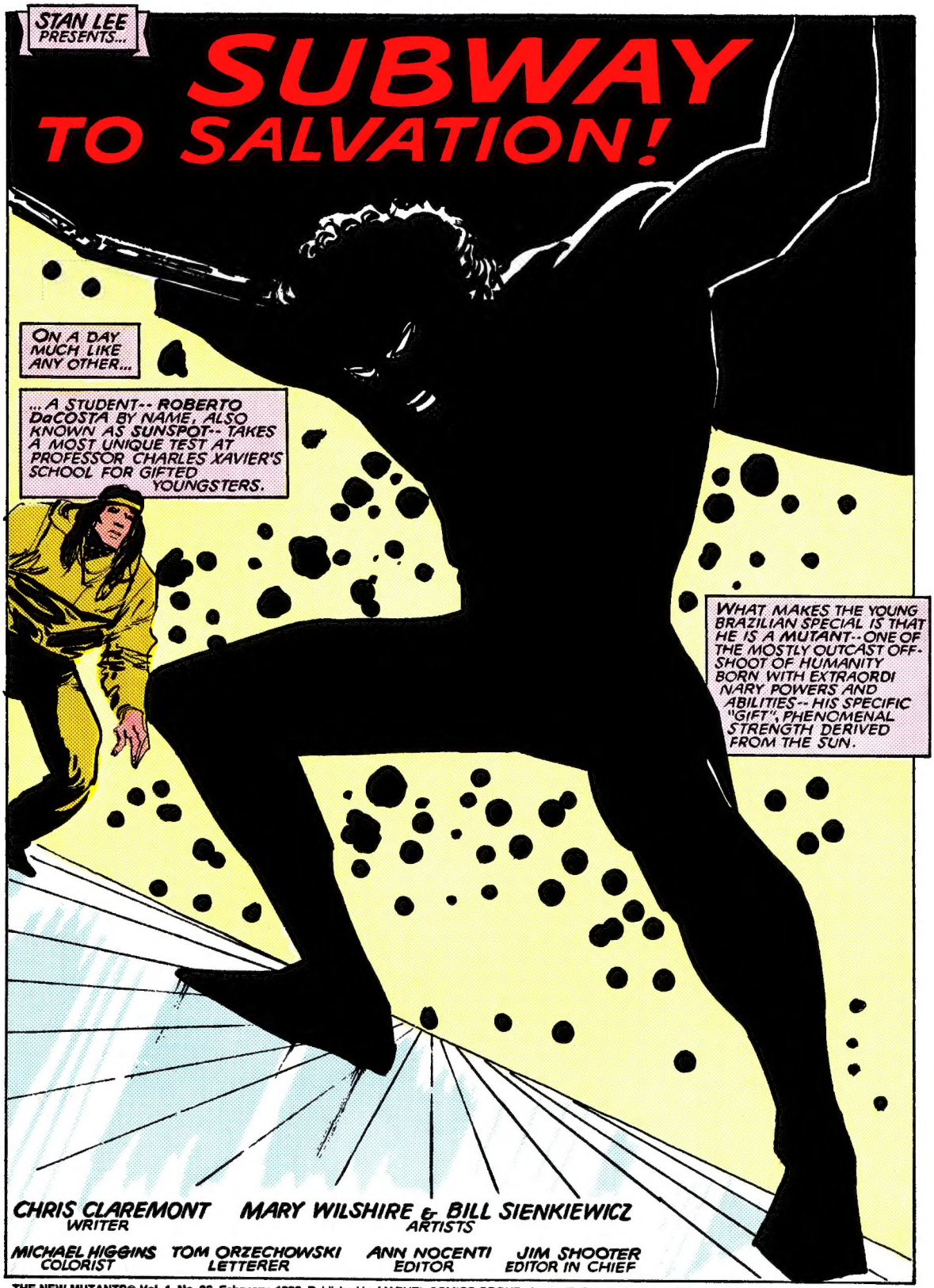
STAN LEE PRESENTS...
SUBWAY TO SALVATION!
ON A DAY MUCH LIKE ANY OTHER...
...A STUDENT-- ROBERTO DaCOSTA BY NAME, ALSO KNOWN AS SUNSPOT-- TAKES A MOST UNIQUE TEST AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
WHAT MAKES THE YOUNG BRAZILIAN SPECIAL IS THAT HE IS A MUTANT--ONE OF THE MOSTLY OUTCAST OFF-SHOOT OF HUMANITY BORN WITH EXTRAORDI NARY POWERS AND ABILITIES-- HIS SPECIFIC "GIFT", PHENOMENAL STRENGTH DERIVED FROM THE SUN.

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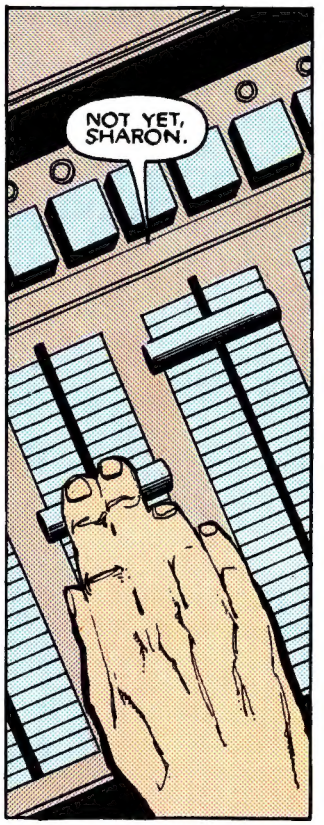
OBSERVING HIS PROGRESS FROM THE CONTROL BOOTH OVERHEAD IS THE SCHOOL'S NEW HEADMASTER, THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, MAGNETO.
I DON'T LIKE THESE READINGS.
BOBBY'S NEAR HIS LIMIT, MAGNETO. I THINK HE'S HAD ENOUGH.


NOT YET, SHARON.

WHU-OUGH!
THE WEIGHT-- IT JUST DOUBLED!
BOBBY--?!
STAY BACK, THOMAS. LEAVE THE YOUNG MAN BE.
BUT, MAGNETO--?!!

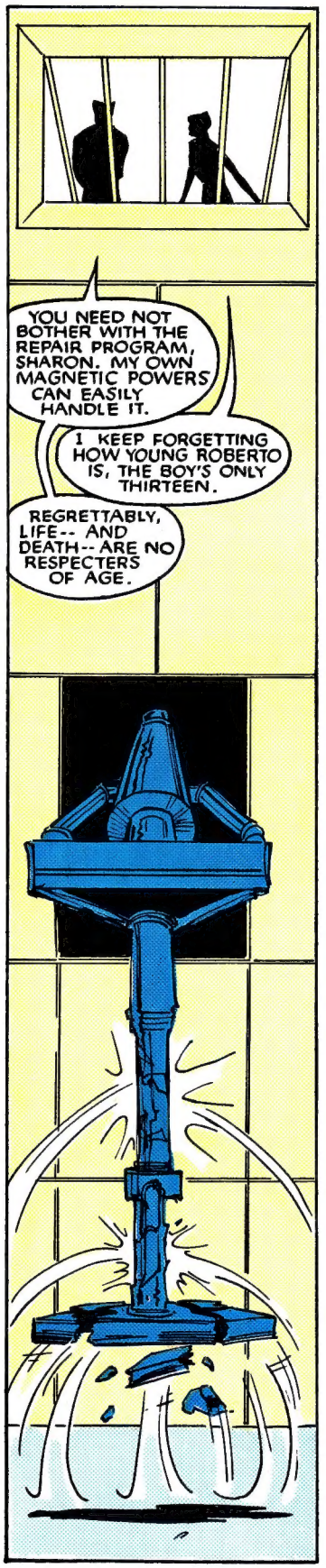
SUNSPOT SHOULD BE MORE THAN ABLE TO RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE...
...WITH A LITTLE EFFORT.

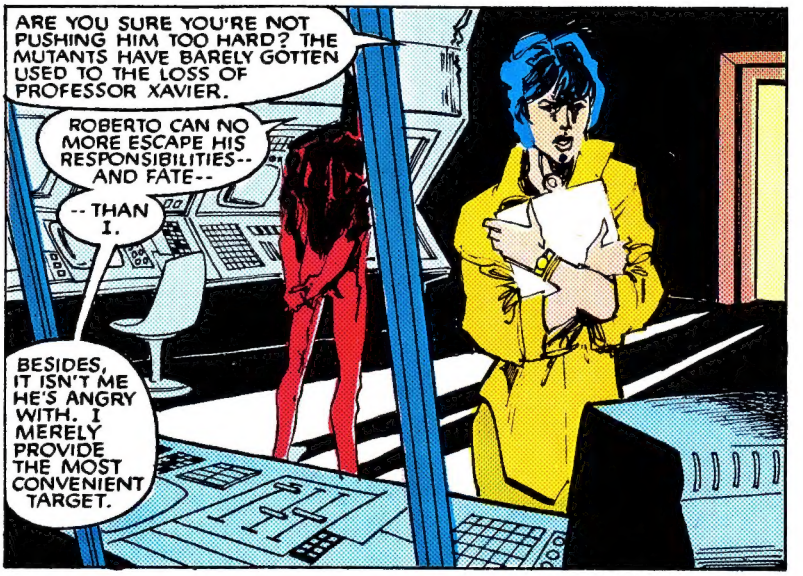
HE DOESN'T THINK I CAN!

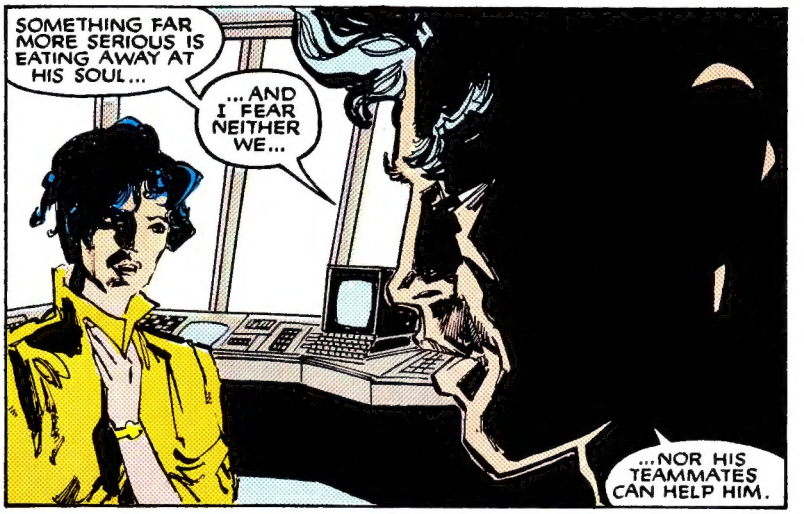
HE EXPECTS ME TO FAIL--
--TO GIVE UP!
WELL, I WON'T!

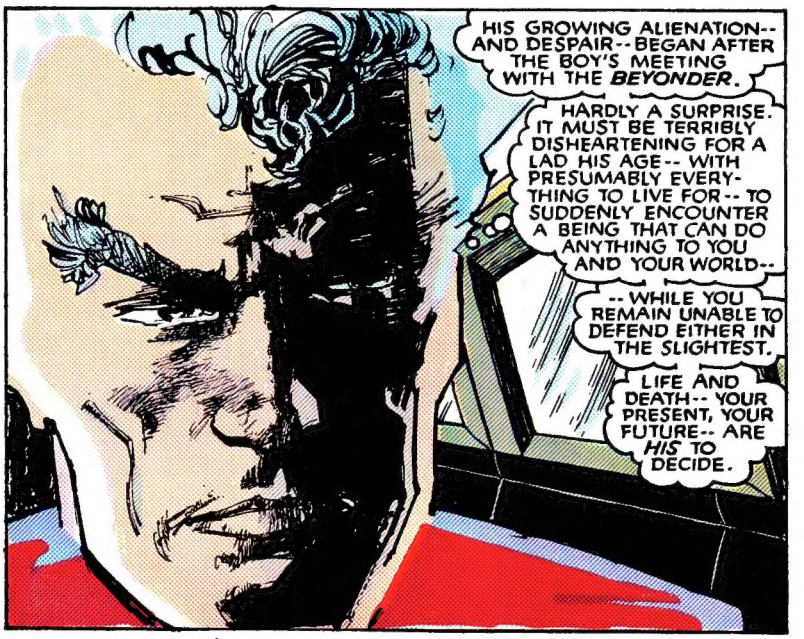
SEE, MY DEAR?
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THE RISK-- THERE WAS NO NEED!

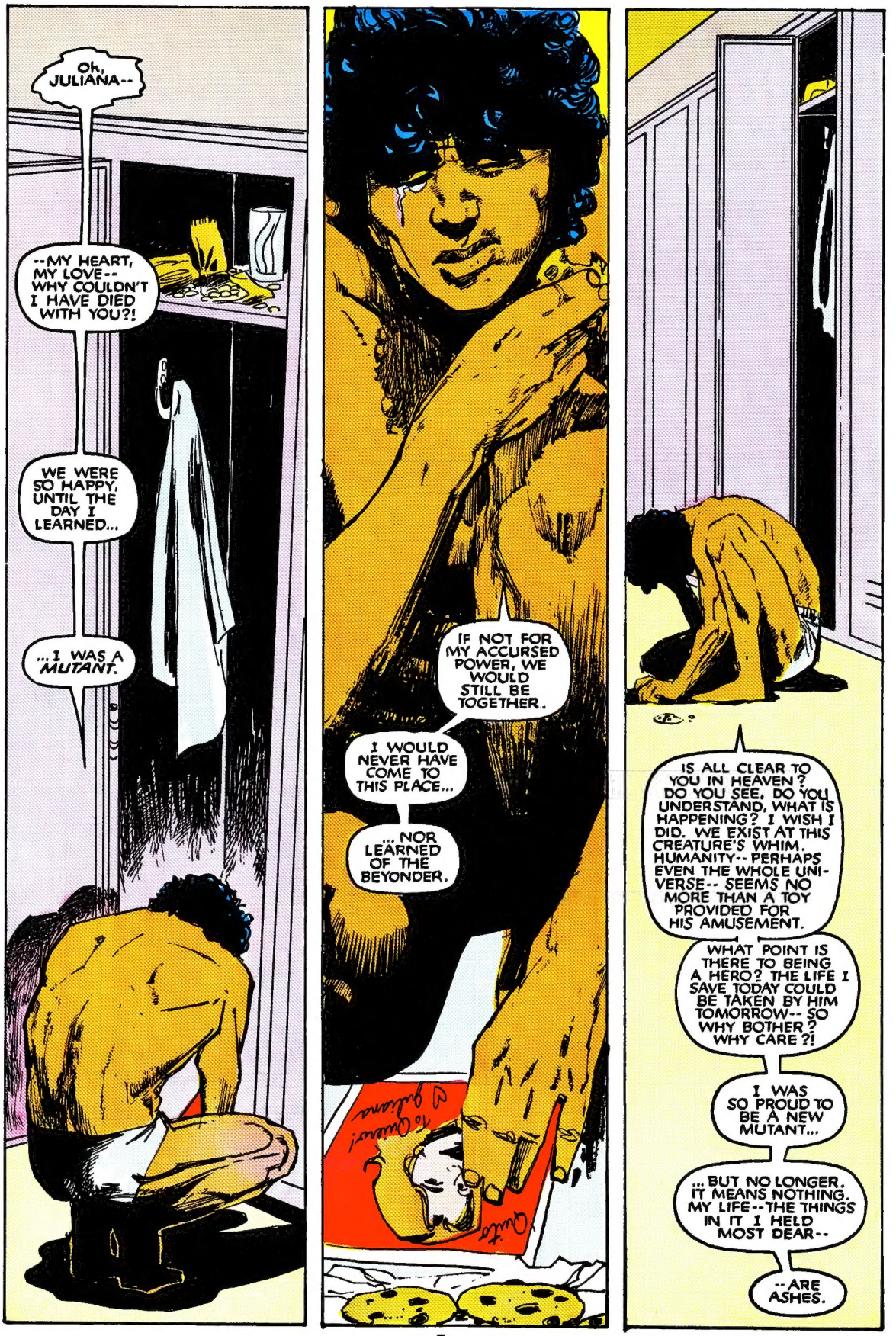
RAKOW!
WHAT IS THE PHRASE YOU AMERICANS USE, NURSE: "NO PAIN, NO GAIN?"
CONGRATULATIONS, SUNSPOT--YOU DID WELL.
THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF YOUR PRAISE--
--AND OF YOUR STUPID TEST!
WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS, MAGNETO?! I LEARNED TO HANDLE MY STRENGTH LONG AGO-- I'M HAPPY THE WAY I AM--
--WHY ARE YOU SO DETERMINED TO INCREASE MY CAPABILITIES?!
THE TIME MAY COME, LAD, WHEN THEY MAY BE NEEDED.
DO YOU WANT TO BE FOUND WANTING?
YOU SPEAK AS IF I WAS ONE OF THE X-MEN!
BUT I'M NOT, MAGNETO-- AND I DON'T WISH TO BE! I CAME TO XAVIER'S TO LEARN HOW TO COPE WITH WHO AND WHAT I AM. I'VE DONE THAT!
ALL I WANT NOW IS TO LIVE AS SANE AND NORMAL A LIFE AS I CAN. I DON'T WANT TO BE A SUPER HERO, I DON'T WANT ANY PART OF THAT CRAZY EXISTENCE!
I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE--
--IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?!


YOU NEED NOT BOTHER WITH THE REPAIR PROGRAM, SHARON. MY OWN MAGNETIC POWERS CAN EASILY HANDLE IT.
I KEEP FORGETTING HOW YOUNG ROBERTO IS, THE BOY'S ONLY THIRTEEN.
REGRETTABLY, LIFE-- AND DEATH-- ARE NO RESPECTERS OF AGE.

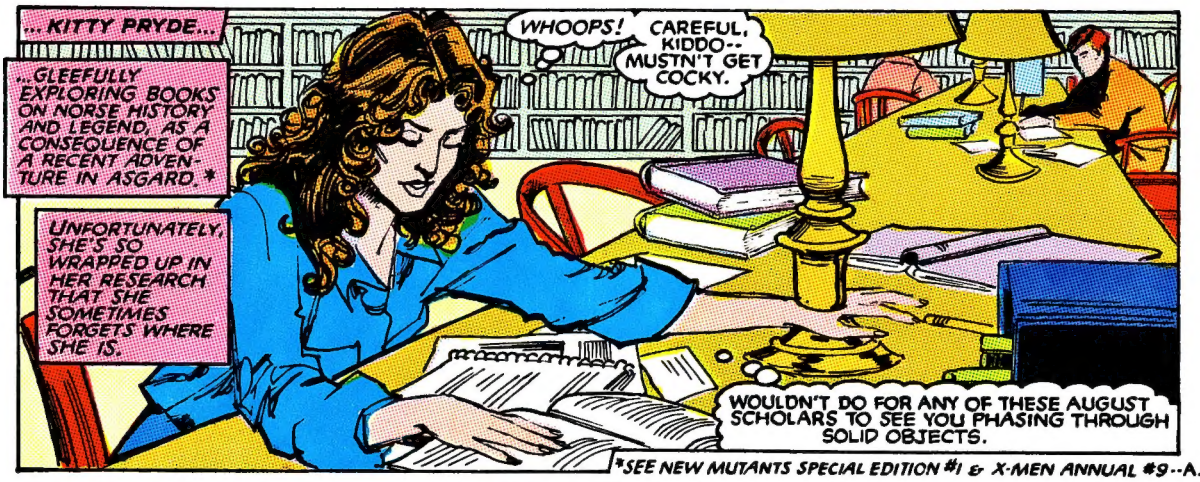

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT PUSHING HIM TOO HARD? THE MUTANTS HAVE BARELY GOTTEN USED TO THE LOSS OF PROFESSOR XAVIER.
ROBERTO CAN NO MORE ESCAPE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES-- AND FATE--
-- THAN I.
BESIDES, IT ISN'T ME HE'S ANGRY WITH. I MERELY PROVIDE THE MOST CONVENIENT TARGET.


SOMETHING FAR MORE SERIOUS IS EATING AWAY AT HIS SOUL...
...AND I FEAR NEITHER WE...
...NOR HIS TEAMMATES CAN HELP HIM.

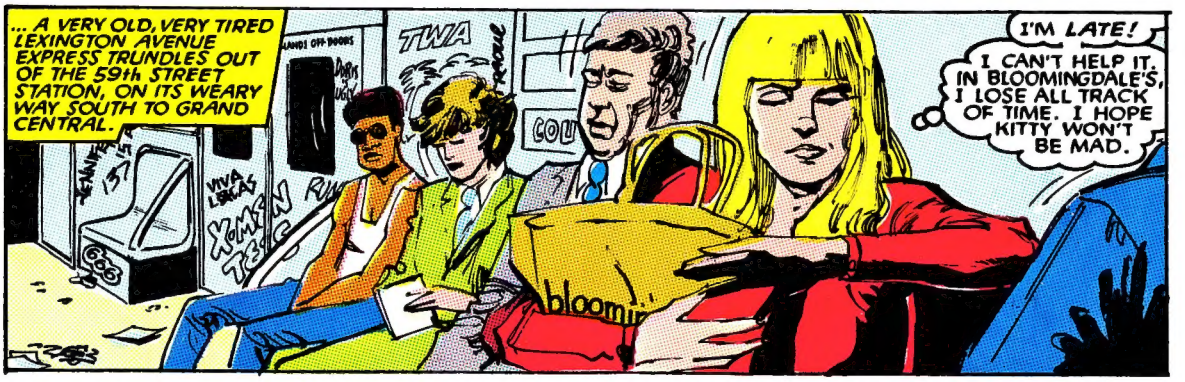

HIS GROWING ALIENATION-- AND DESPAIR-- BEGAN AFTER THE BOY'S MEETING WITH THE BEYONDER.
HARDLY A SURPRISE. IT MUST BE TERRIBLY DISHEARTENING FOR A LAD HIS AGE-- WITH PRESUMABLY EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR-- TO SUDDENLY ENCOUNTER A BEING THAT CAN DO ANYTHING TO YOU AND YOUR WORLD--
-- WHILE YOU REMAIN UNABLE TO DEFEND EITHER IN THE SLIGHTEST.
LIFE AND DEATH-- YOUR PRESENT, YOUR FUTURE-- ARE HIS TO DECIDE.


Oh, JULIANA--
--MY HEART, MY LOVE-- WHY COULDN'T I HAVE DIED WITH YOU?!
WE WERE SO HAPPY, UNTIL THE DAY I LEARNED...
...I WAS A MUTANT.
IF NOT FOR MY ACCURSED POWER, WE WOULD STILL BE TOGETHER.
I WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS PLACE...
...NOR LEARNED OF THE BEYONDER.
IS ALL CLEAR TO YOU IN HEAVEN? DO YOU SEE, DO YOU UNDERSTAND, WHAT IS HAPPENING? I WISH I DID. WE EXIST AT THIS CREATURE'S WHIM. HUMANITY-- PERHAPS EVEN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE-- SEEMS NO MORE THAN A TOY PROVIDED FOR HIS AMUSEMENT.
WHAT POINT IS THERE TO BEING A HERO? THE LIFE I SAVE TODAY COULD BE TAKEN BY HIM TOMORROW-- SO WHY BOTHER? WHY CARE?!
I WAS SO PROUD TO BE A NEW MUTANT...
...BUT NO LONGER. IT MEANS NOTHING. MY LIFE--THE THINGS IN IT I HELD MOST DEAR--
--ARE ASHES.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY...
...WHEREIN CAN BE FOUND ON THIS BRIGHT INDIAN SUMMER AFTERNOON, THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF CHARLES XAVIER'S SENIOR TEAM, THE X-MEN...


...KITTY PRYDE...
...GLEEFULLY EXPLORING BOOKS ON NORSE HISTORY AND LEGEND, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A RECENT ADVENTURE IN ASGARD.*
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE'S SO WRAPPED UP IN HER RESEARCH THAT SHE SOMETIMES FORGETS WHERE SHE IS.
WHOOPS!
CAREFUL, KIDDO-- MUSTN'T GET COCKY.
WOULDN'T DO FOR ANY OF THESE AUGUST SCHOLARS TO SEE YOU PHASING THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS.

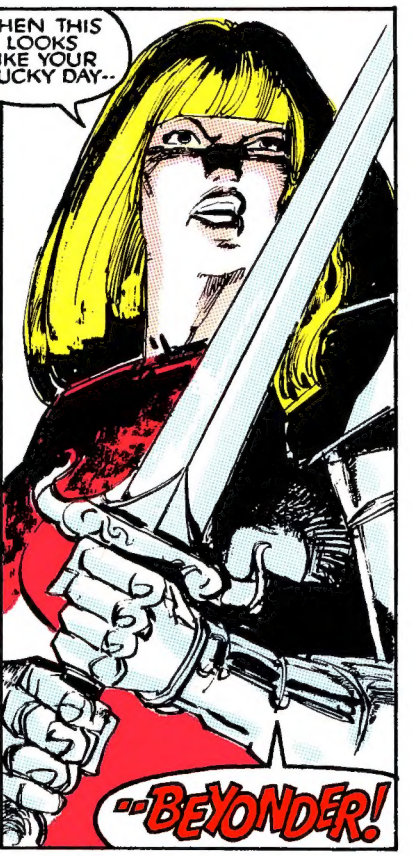
*SEE NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1 & X-MEN ANNUAL #9--A.

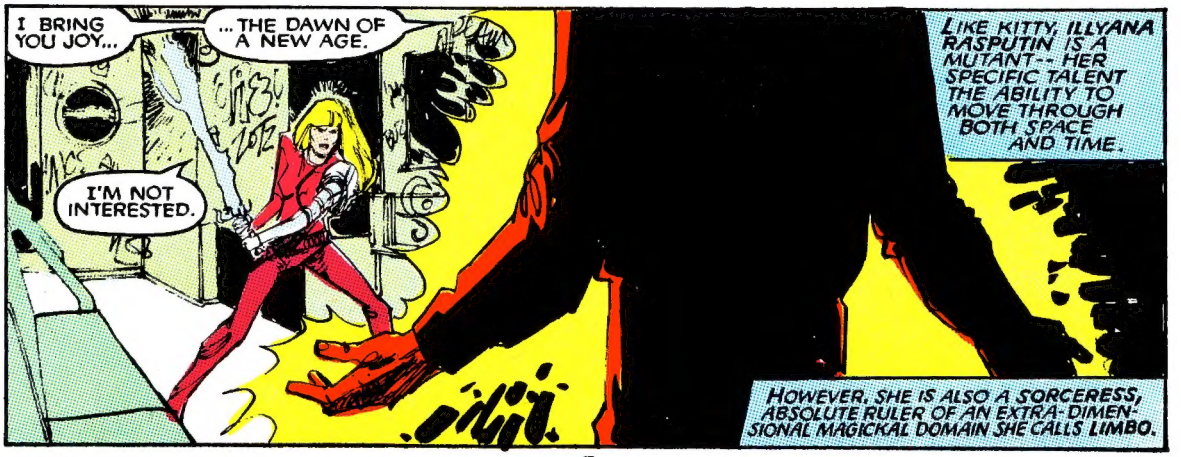

...A VERY OLD, VERY TIRED LEXINGTON AVENUE EXPRESS TRUNDLES OUT OF THE 59th STREET STATION, ON ITS WEARY WAY SOUTH TO GRAND CENTRAL.
I'M LATE!
I CAN'T HELP IT. IN BLOOMINGDALE'S, I LOSE ALL TRACK OF TIME. I HOPE KITTY WON'T BE MAD.
TWA
HANDS OFF DOORS
bloomi

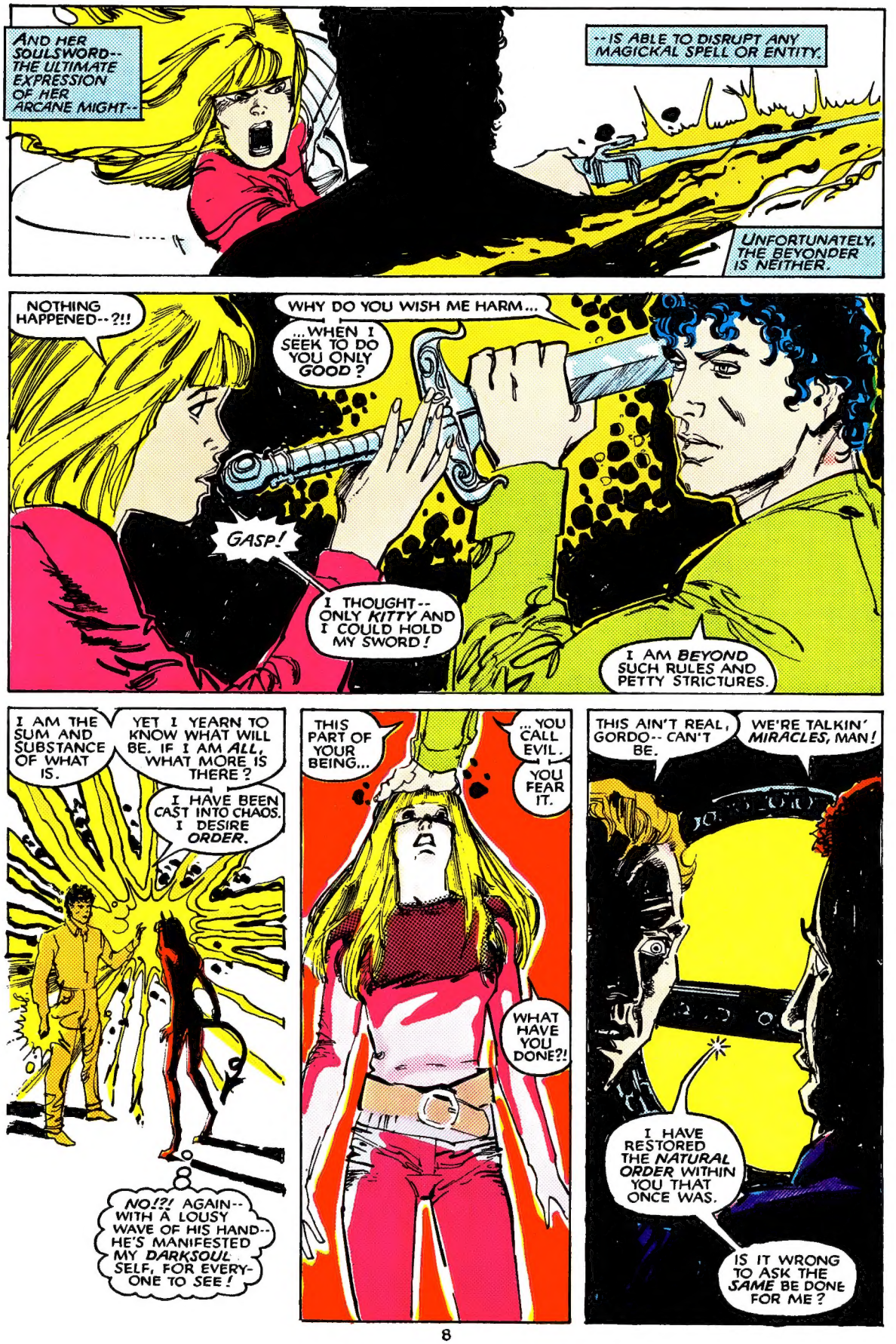
JUST WHAT I NEED, AN ACCIDENT. IDIOT TRAIN'LL PROBABLY BE STUCK HERE FOR HOURS-- huh?!?
WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?!
FIRE!
EVERYBODY OUT-- NOW! INTO THE NEXT CAR!
C'MON, CHICA--THAT MEANS YOU!

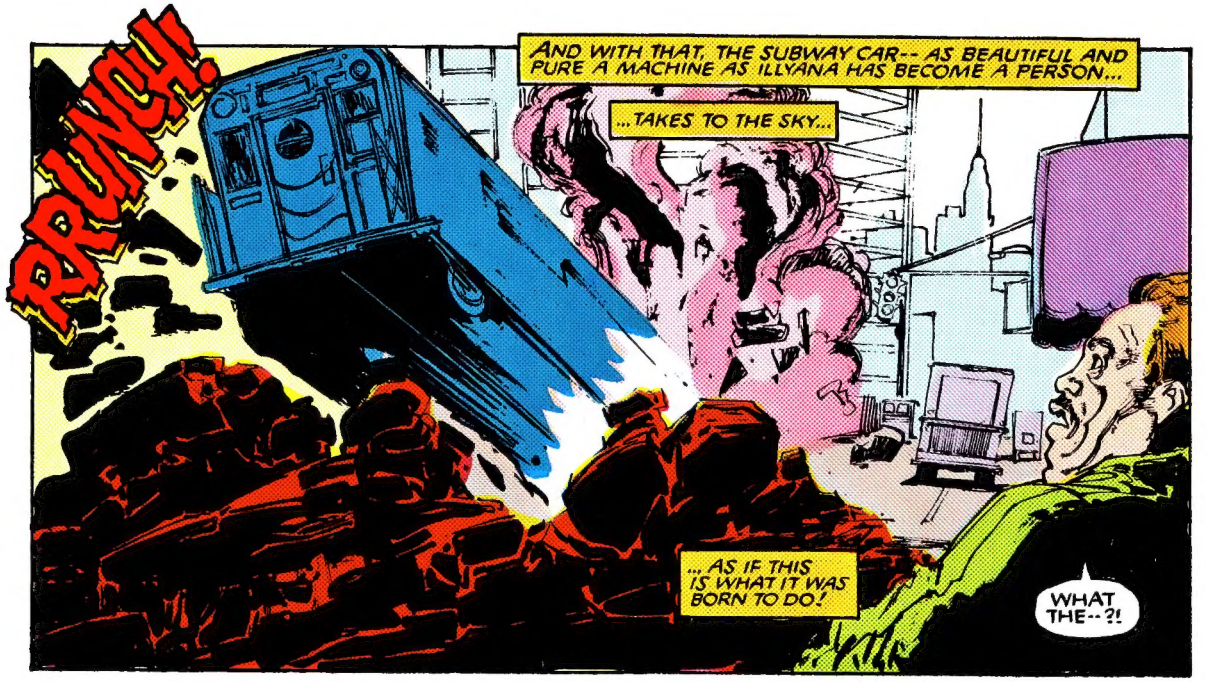
HELLO, ILLYANA.
I-- KNOW THAT VOICE!

I'M GLAD YOU REMEMBER ME. I'VE BEEN HOPING WE'D MEET AGAIN.


THEN THIS LOOKS LIKE YOUR LUCKY DAY--
--BEYONDER!

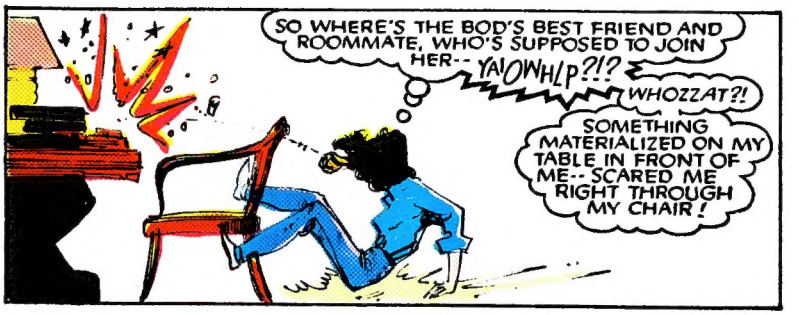

I BRING YOU JOY...
...THE DAWN OF A NEW AGE.
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
LIKE KITTY, ILLYANA RASPUTIN IS A MUTANT-- HER SPECIFIC TALENT THE ABILITY TO MOVE THROUGH BOTH SPACE AND TIME.
HOWEVER, SHE IS ALSO A SORCERESS, ABSOLUTE RULER OF AN EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL MAGICKAL DOMAIN SHE CALLS LIMBO.


AND HER SOULSWORD-- THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF HER ARCANE MIGHT--
--IS ABLE TO DISRUPT ANY MAGICKAL SPELL OR ENTITY.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE BEYONDER IS NEITHER.
NOTHING HAPPENED--?!!
WHY DO YOU WISH ME HARM...
...WHEN I SEEK TO DO YOU ONLY GOOD?
GASP!
I THOUGHT-- ONLY KITTY AND I COULD HOLD MY SWORD!
I AM BEYOND SUCH RULES AND PETTY STRICTURES.
I AM THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF WHAT IS.
YET I YEARN TO KNOW WHAT WILL BE. IF I AM ALL, WHAT MORE IS THERE?
I HAVE BEEN CAST INTO CHAOS. I DESIRE ORDER.
NO!?! AGAIN-- WITH A LOUSY WAVE OF HIS HAND-- HE'S MANIFESTED MY DARKSOUL SELF, FOR EVERY-ONE TO SEE!
THIS PART OF YOUR BEING...
..YOU CALL EVIL.
YOU FEAR IT.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
THIS AIN'T REAL, GORDO-- CAN'T BE.
WE'RE TALKIN' MIRACLES, MAN!
I HAVE RESTORED THE NATURAL ORDER WITHIN YOU THAT ONCE WAS.
IS IT WRONG TO ASK THE SAME BE DONE FOR ME?


RRUNCH!
AND WITH THAT, THE SUBWAY CAR-- AS BEAUTIFUL AND PURE A MACHINE AS ILLYANA HAS BECOME A PERSON...
...TAKES TO THE SKY...
...AS IF THIS IS WHAT IT WAS BORN TO DO!
WHAT THE--?!

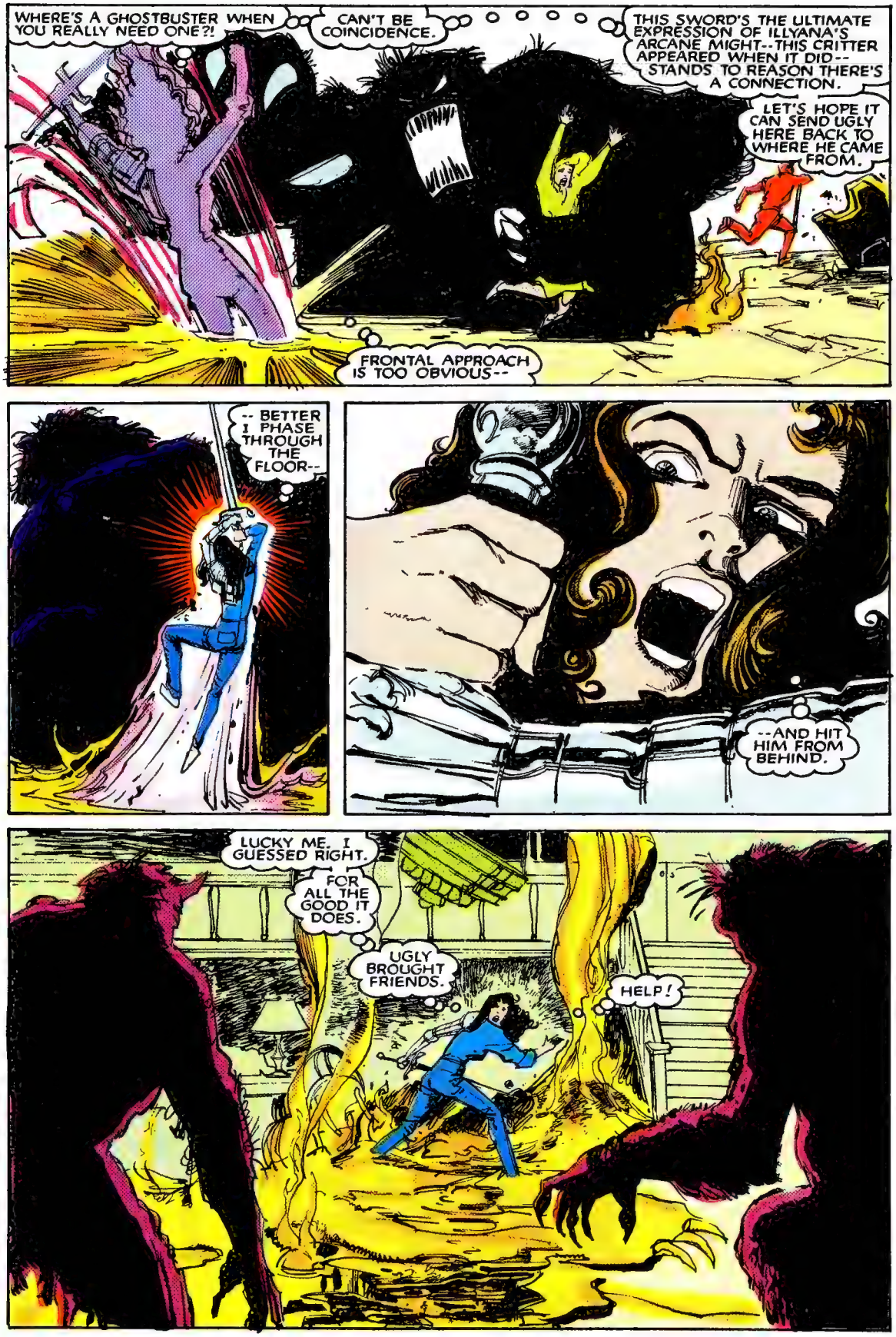
MOMMY, LOOK!
IS THE TRAIN FLYING UP TO SUBWAY HEAVEN?!
IT IS BEST THIS WAY. THEY SHOULD BE LED ALONG THE PATH OF GLORY...
...BY ONE OF THEIR OWN.

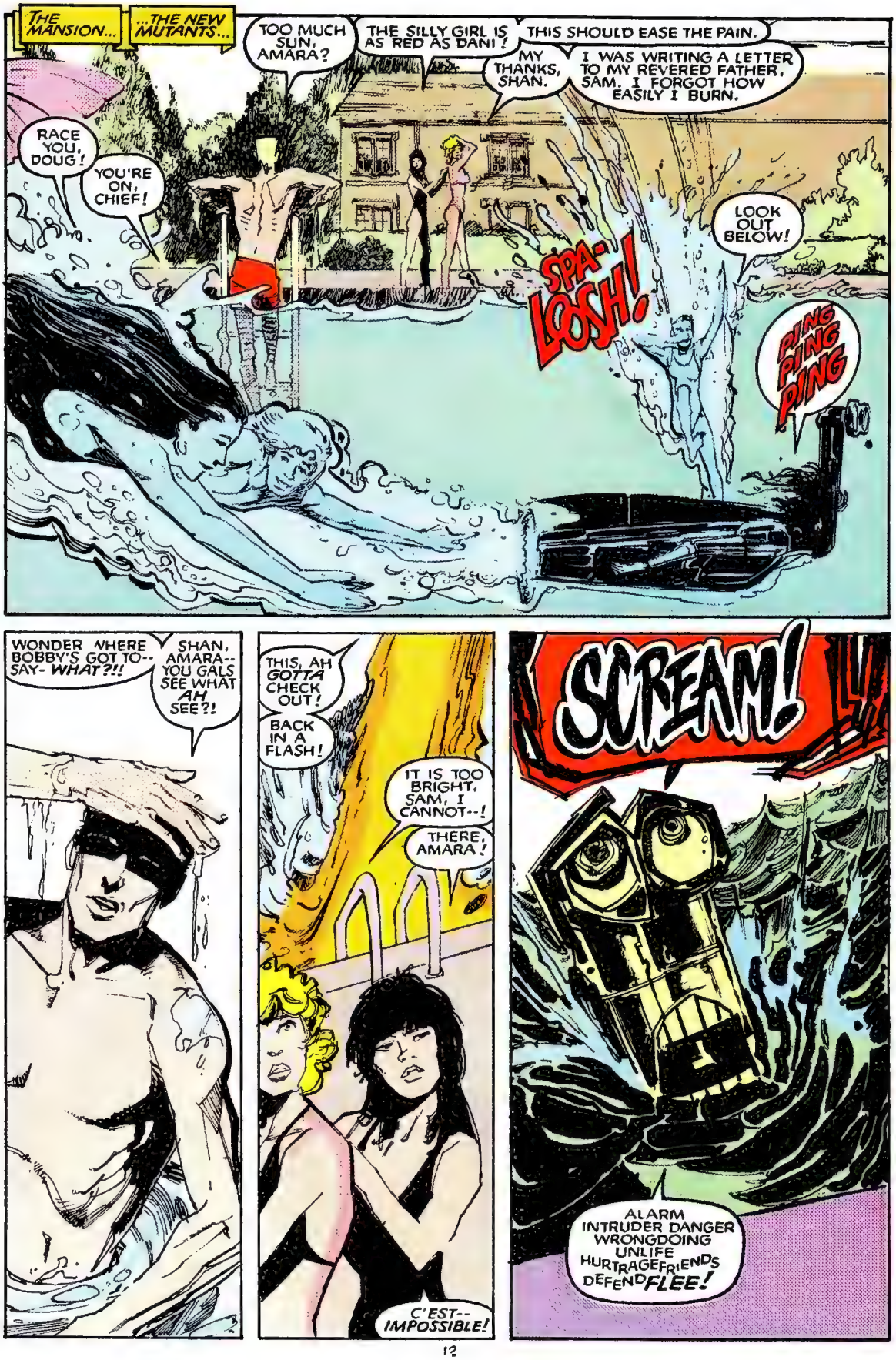
BACK AT THE LIBRARY...
YAWWWN!
I FEEL TIRED AND GRUMPY AT THE SAME TIME--
--THE BOD NEEDS SOME LUNCH!


SO WHERE'S THE BOD'S BEST FRIEND AND ROOMMATE, WHO'S SUPPOSED TO JOIN HER-- YAIOWHLP?!?
WHOZZAT?!
SOMETHING MATERIALIZED ON MY TABLE IN FRONT OF ME-- SCARED ME RIGHT THROUGH MY CHAIR!

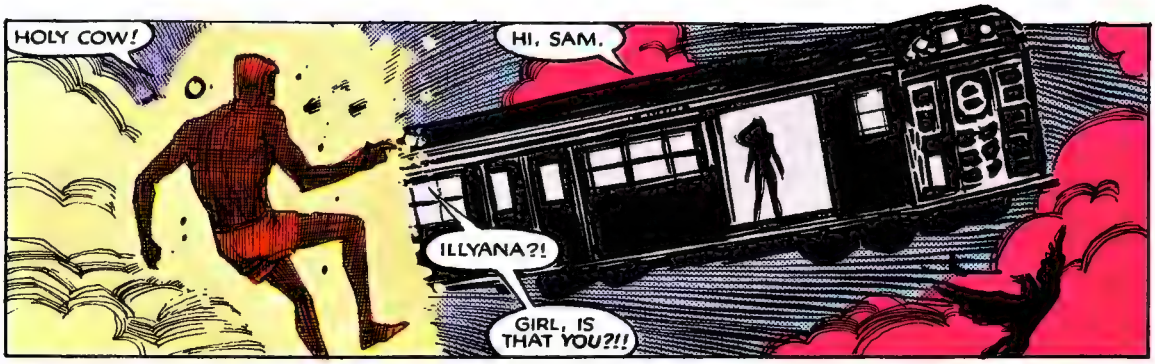
ILLYANA'S SOULSWORD!?!
WHAT'S IT DOING HERE, WHY'D IT COME TO ME?!

Gasp!
HER ELDRITCH ARMOR--?!
Oh, NO--NOT AGAIN!
AND AROUND MY NECK--THE BEATRIX MEDALLION GIVEN ILLYANA BY HER DEMON-LORD MENTOR, BELASCO.
CRIPES--THE LAST TIME ANYTHING EVEN REMOTELY SIMILAR HAPPENED... WAS WHEN WE TANGLED WITH THE BEYONDER IN LOS ANGELES! *
*NM #30--AnnN.
YOUNG LADY, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THAT OUTLANDISH GET-UP?
THIS IS A LIBRARY, HOW DARE YOU BRANDISH A WEAPON!
I KNEW WE WEREN'T FINISHED WITH THAT CREEP!
HE MUST HAVE PICKED ON ILLYANA--LORD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DONE TO HER BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL FOR ALL HER SORCEROUS PROPS TO TRANSFER TO ME.
WHY, THOUGH?! I'M NO WITCH, HOW COME I GET STUCK--?!
WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER, DUMMY, WHEN YOU'VE FOUND ILLYANA. BETTER ALERT THE X-MEN, TOO--NO TELLING WHO'LL BE HIT NEXT!
RRODAAAUUH!!
A SCREAM--
--COMING FROM THE GREAT HALL--
-OBOY!

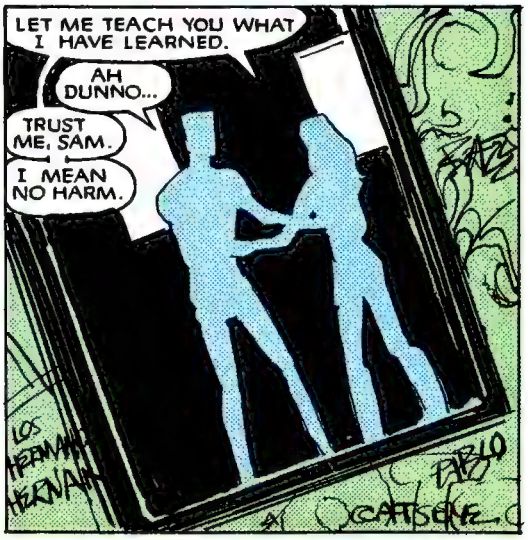

WHERE'S A GHOSTBUSTER WHEN YOU REALLY NEED ONE?!
CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE.
THIS SWORD'S THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF ILLYANA'S ARCANE MIGHT--THIS CRITTER APPEARED WHEN IT DID--STANDS TO REASON THERE'S A CONNECTION.
LET'S HOPE IT CAN SEND UGLY HERE BACK TO WHERE HE CAME FROM.
FRONTAL APPROACH IS TOO OBVIOUS--
-- BETTER I PHASE THROUGH THE FLOOR--
--AND HIT HIM FROM BEHIND.
LUCKY ME. I GUESSED RIGHT.
FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES.
UGLY BROUGHT FRIENDS.
HELP!

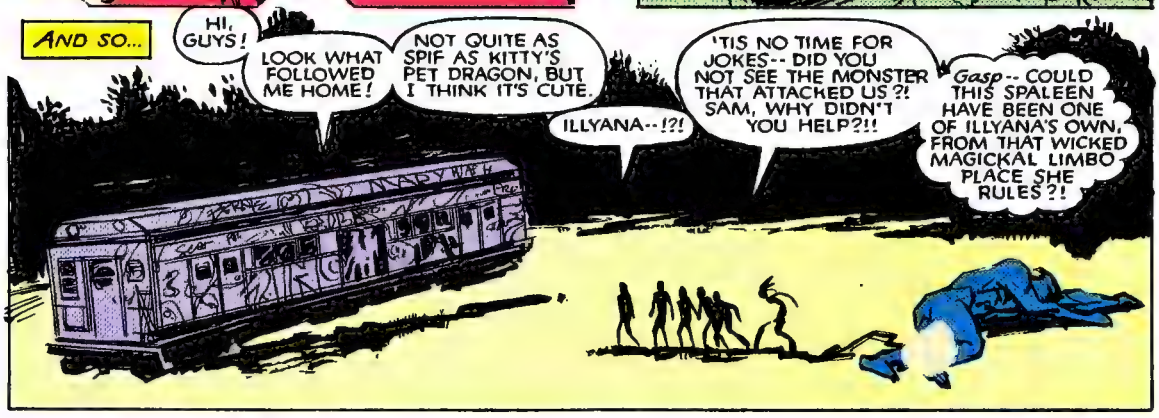

THE MANSION...
...THE NEW MUTANTS...
TOO MUCH SUN, AMARA?
THE SILLY GIRL IS AS RED AS DANI!
THIS SHOULD EASE THE PAIN.
MY THANKS, SHAN.
I WAS WRITING A LETTER TO MY REVERED FATHER, SAM. I FORGOT HOW EASILY I BURN.
RACE YOU, DOUG!
YOU'RE ON, CHIEF!
SPA-LOOSH!
LOOK OUT BELOW!
PING PING PING
WONDER WHERE BOBBY'S GOT TO-- SAY- WHAT?!!
SHAN, AMARA-- YOU GALS SEE WHAT AH SEE?!
THIS, AH GOTTA CHECK OUT!
BACK IN A FLASH!
IT IS TOO BRIGHT, SAM, I CANNOT--!
THERE, AMARA!
C'EST-- IMPOSSIBLE!
SCREAM!
ALARM INTRUDER DANGER WRONGDOING UNLIFE HURTRAGEFRIENDS DEFENDFLEE!

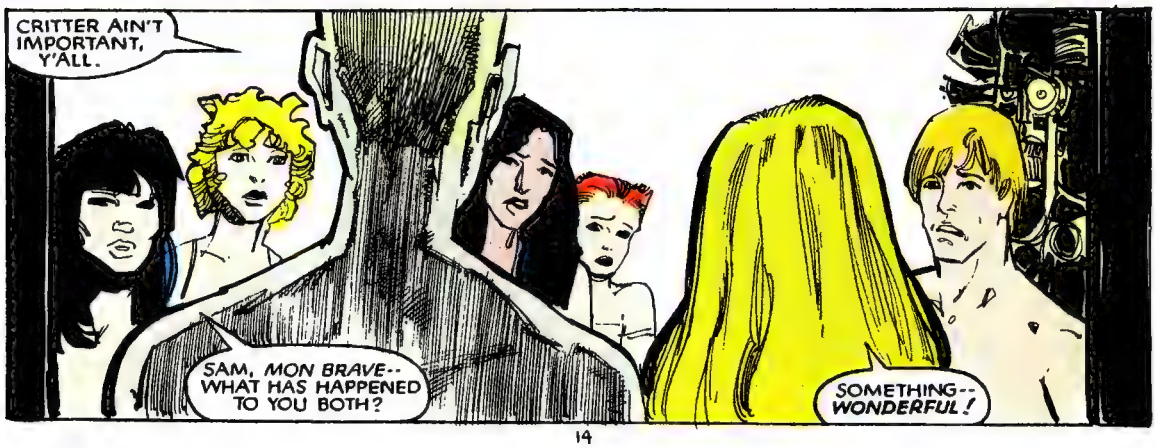
DANI-- A MONSTER!
THE CREATURE EMERGES FROM A HOLE IN THE VERY AIR--
-- AS IF THE WORLD ITSELF HAD BEEN SLICED OPEN!
TRES DISGUSTO--
-- JUST LOOKING AT THAT THING TURNS MY STOMACH! AND THE STENCH--!
HIT IT, MUTANTS! STOP THAT HORROR IN ITS TRACKS!
AMARA STRIKES FIRST, WITH A LAVA BLAST, WHILE SHAN TRIES TO POSSESS IT, AND RAHNE SHIFTS FROM HUMAN TO WOLF FORM, READY TO PROTECT HER FRIENDS WITH HER LIFE.
IT IS WARLOCK, HOWEVER, WHO FINISHES THE JOB--
-- BY SIMPLY TOUCHING IT.
THAT INSTANTLY TRANSFORMS THE DEMON INTO A TECHNO-ORGANIC ENTITY LIKE WARLOCK HIMSELF.
THEN, WARLOCK ABSORBS ITS ENERGY-- ITS "LIFEGLOW" RENDERING THE CREATURE INERT.
DID SELF DO RIGHT, CHIEFRIENDANI-- CONSUMING SUSTENANCE IN THIS INSTANCE?
I DON'T THINK WE HAD ANY CHOICE, 'LOCK. THE OTHERS DIDN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN.
SAM'S NOT ABOUT, DANI-- HE DIDN'T HELP US, EITHER-- WHERE'S HE GONE?

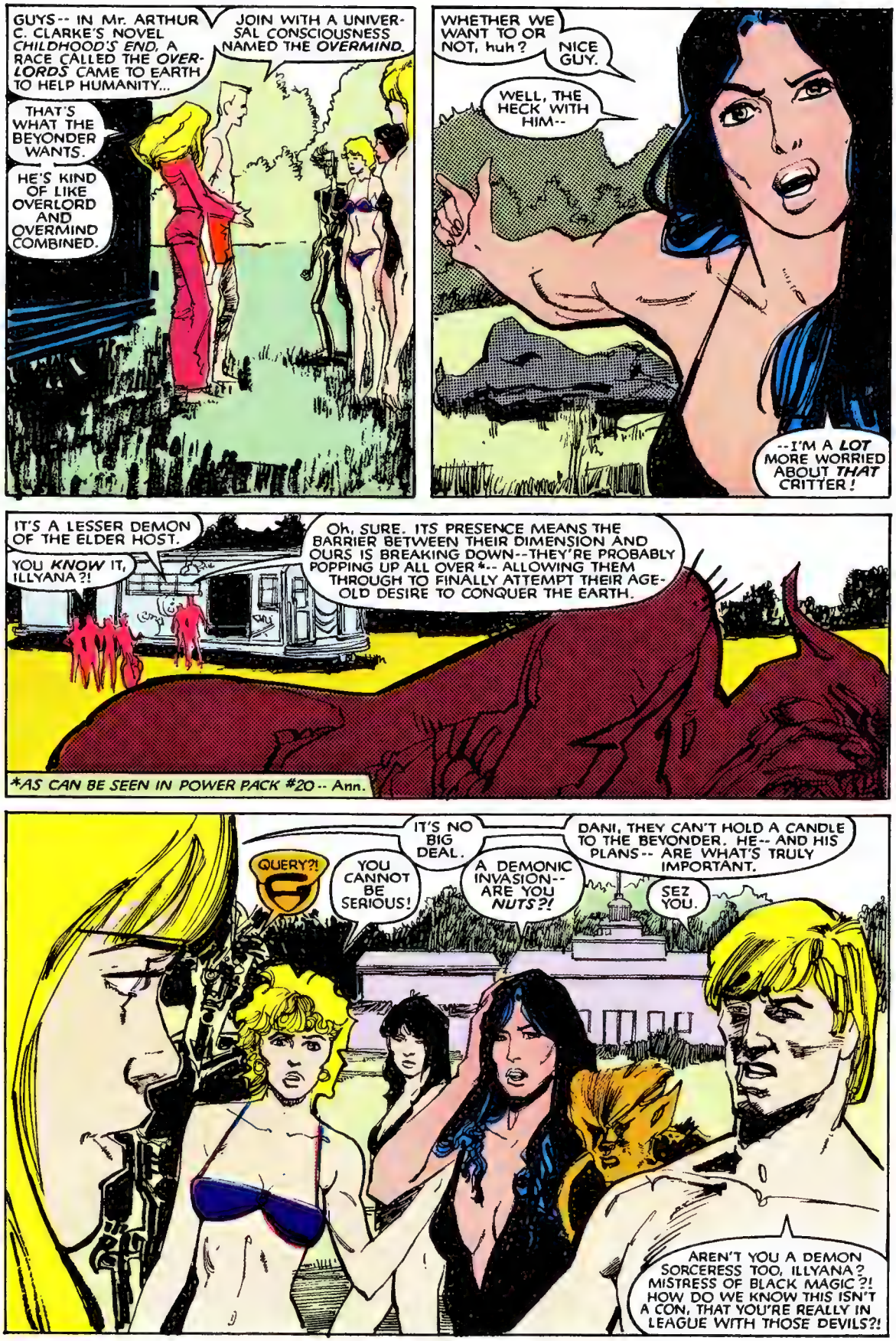

HOLY COW!
HI, SAM.
ILLYANA?!
GIRL, IS THAT YOU?!!

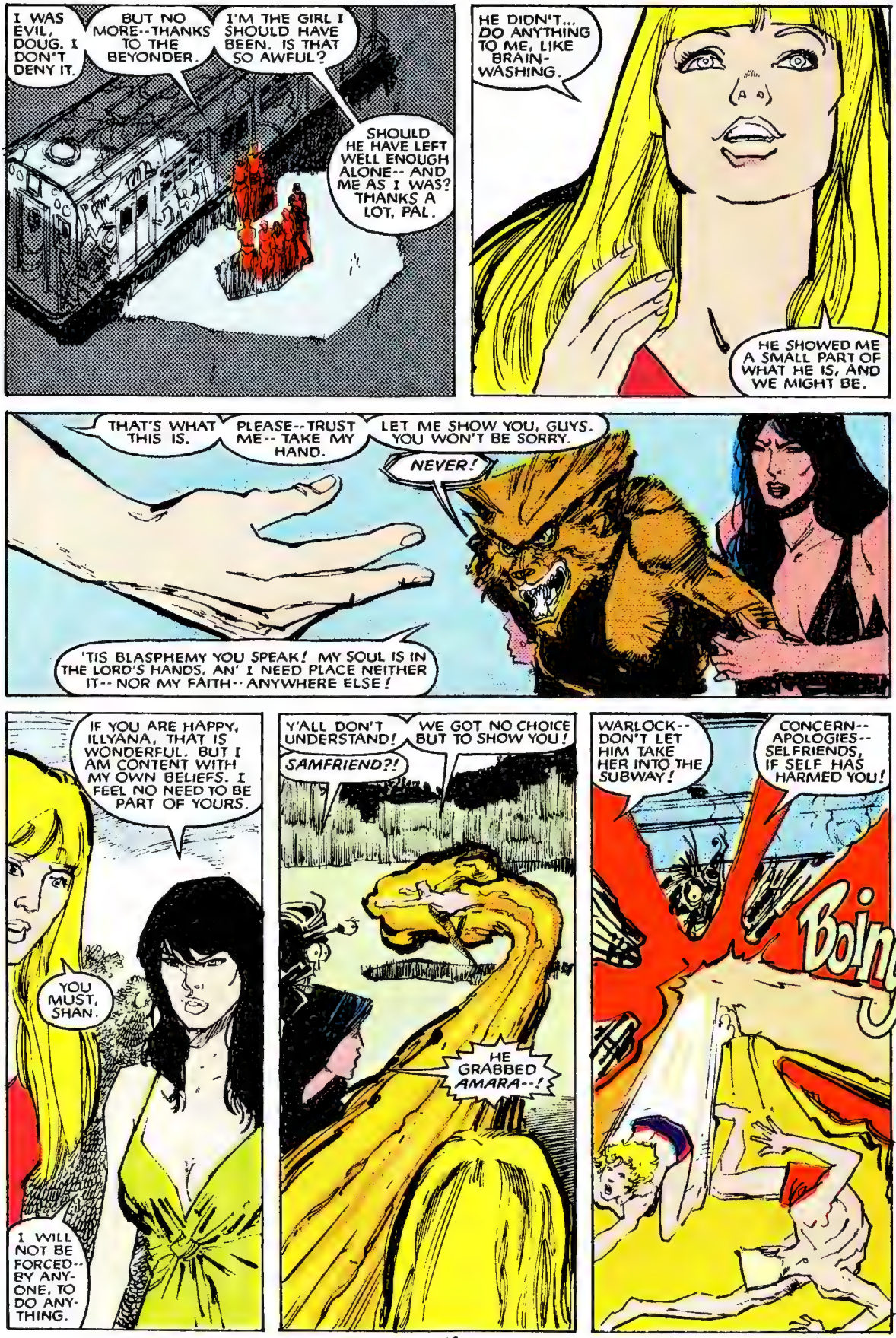
KIND'A YES, KIND'A NO.
I'M NOT THE PERSON I WAS--
- BUT THE ONE I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF BECOMING.
TAKE MY HAND, DEAR FRIEND.

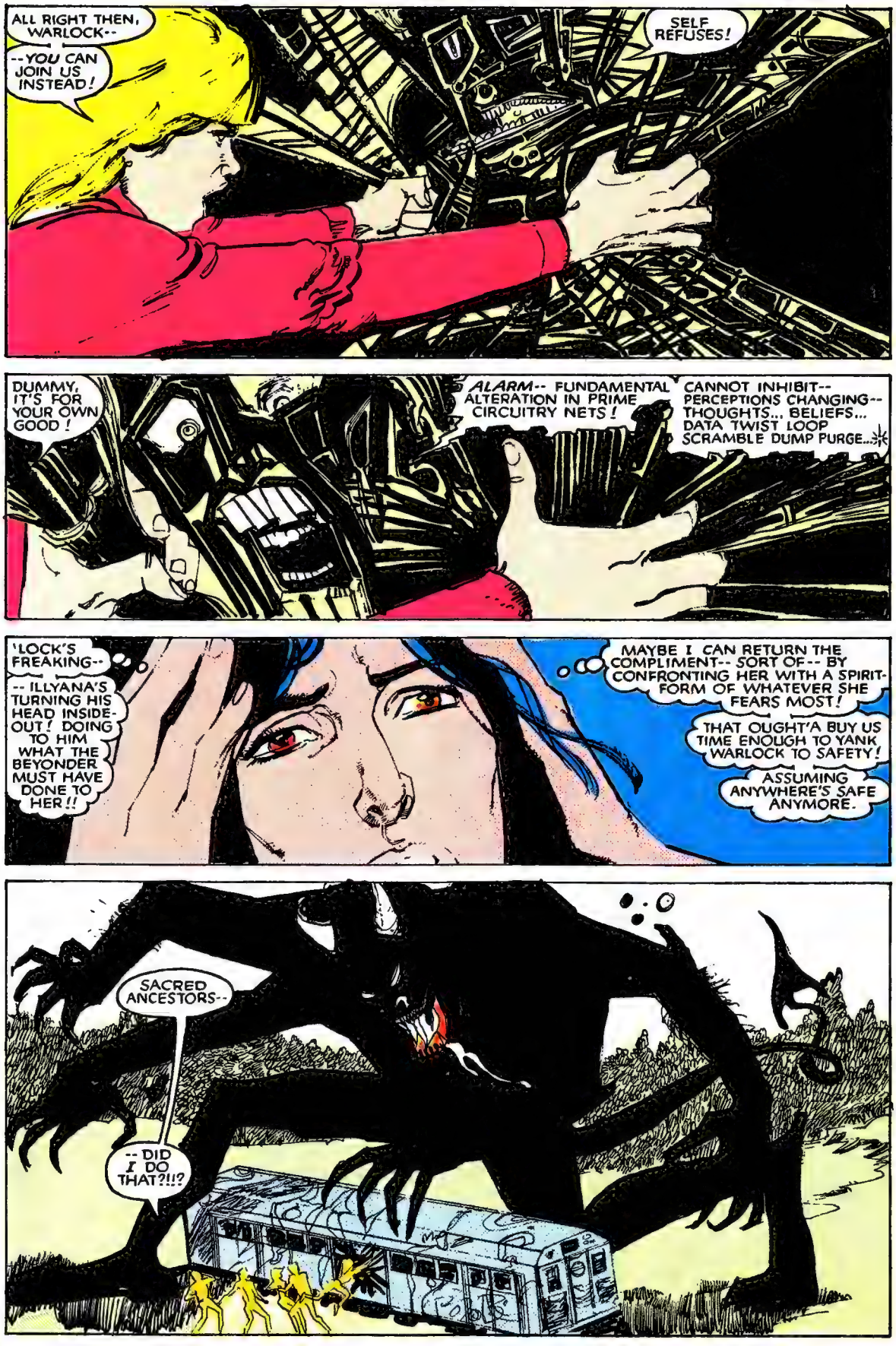

LET ME TEACH YOU WHAT I HAVE LEARNED.
AH DUNNO...
TRUST ME, SAM.
I MEAN NO HARM.
LOS HERNANDEZ
PABLO MARCOS

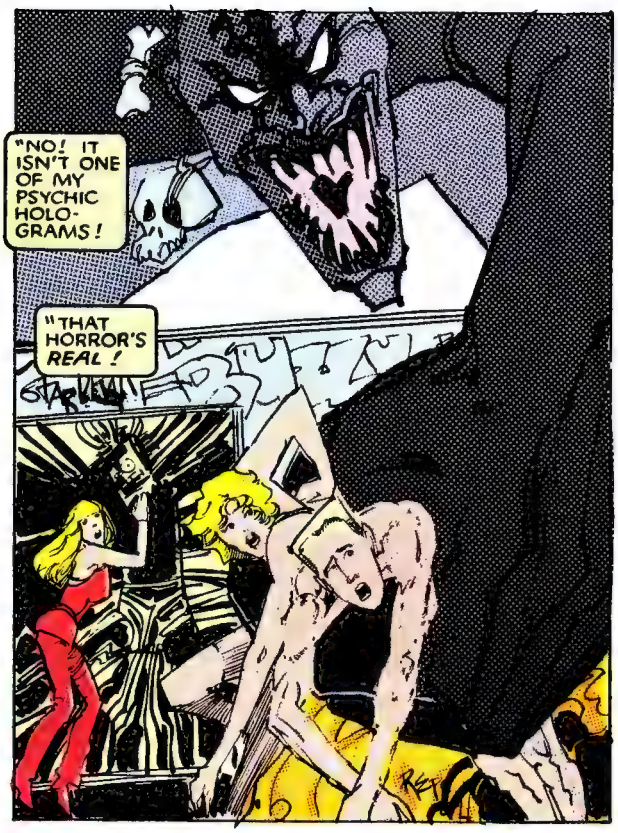

AND SO...
HI, GUYS!
LOOK WHAT FOLLOWED ME HOME!
NOT QUITE AS SPIF AS KITTY'S PET DRAGON, BUT I THINK IT'S CUTE.
ILLYANA--!?!
'TIS NO TIME FOR JOKES-- DID YOU NOT SEE THE MONSTER THAT ATTACKED US?! SAM, WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP?!!
Gasp-- COULD THIS SPALEEN HAVE BEEN ONE OF ILLYANA'S OWN, FROM THAT WICKED MAGICKAL LIMBO PLACE SHE RULES?!

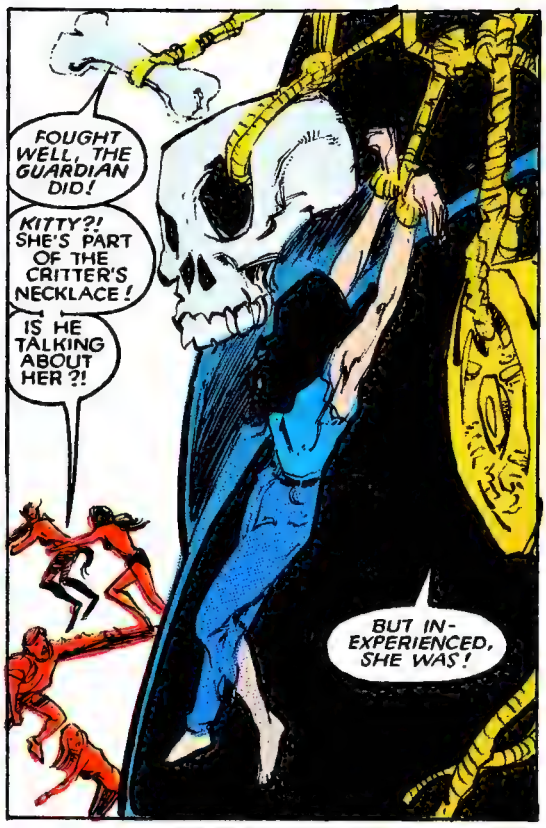

CRITTER AIN'T IMPORTANT, Y'ALL.
SAM, MON BRAVE-- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU BOTH?
SOMETHING-- WONDERFUL!

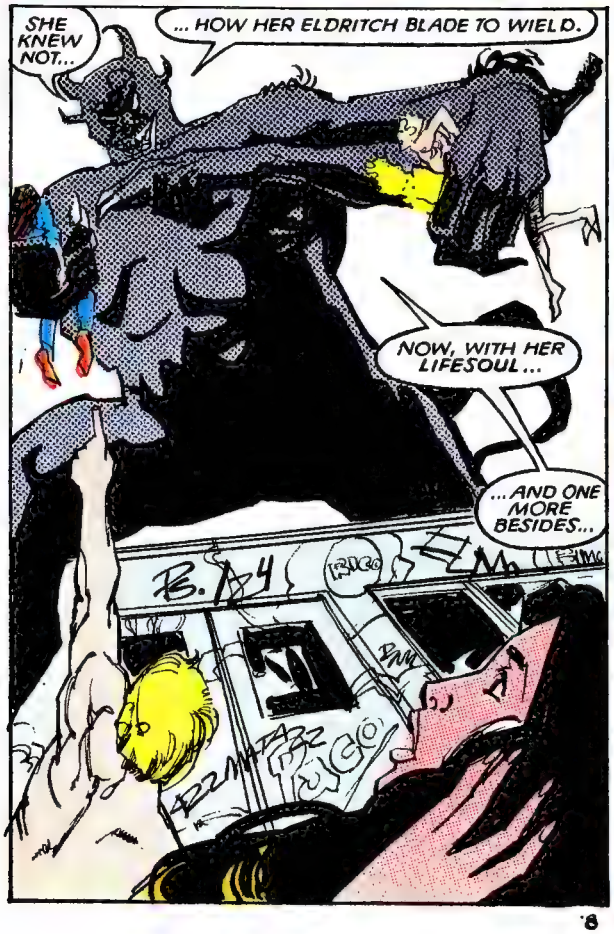

GUYS-- IN Mr. ARTHUR C. CLARKE'S NOVEL CHILDHOOD'S END, A RACE CALLED THE OVER-LORDS CAME TO EARTH TO HELP HUMANITY...
JOIN WITH A UNIVERSAL CONSCIOUSNESS NAMED THE OVERMIND.
THAT'S WHAT THE BEYONDER WANTS.
HE'S KIND OF LIKE OVERLORD AND OVERMIND COMBINED.
WHETHER WE WANT TO OR NOT, huh?
NICE GUY.
WELL, THE HECK WITH HIM--
--I'M A LOT MORE WORRIED ABOUT THAT CRITTER!
IT'S A LESSER DEMON OF THE ELDER HOST.
YOU KNOW IT, ILLYANA?!
Oh, SURE. ITS PRESENCE MEANS THE BARRIER BETWEEN THEIR DIMENSION AND OURS IS BREAKING DOWN--THEY'RE PROBABLY POPPING UP ALL OVER*-- ALLOWING THEM THROUGH TO FINALLY ATTEMPT THEIR AGE-OLD DESIRE TO CONQUER THE EARTH.
*AS CAN BE SEEN IN POWER PACK #20-- Ann.
QUERY?!
YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
A DEMONIC INVASION-- ARE YOU NUTS?!
DANI, THEY CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE BEYONDER. HE-- AND HIS PLANS-- ARE WHAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT.
SEZ YOU.
AREN'T YOU A DEMON SORCERESS TOO, ILLYANA? MISTRESS OF BLACK MAGIC?! HOW DO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T A CON, THAT YOU'RE REALLY IN LEAGUE WITH THOSE DEVILS?!

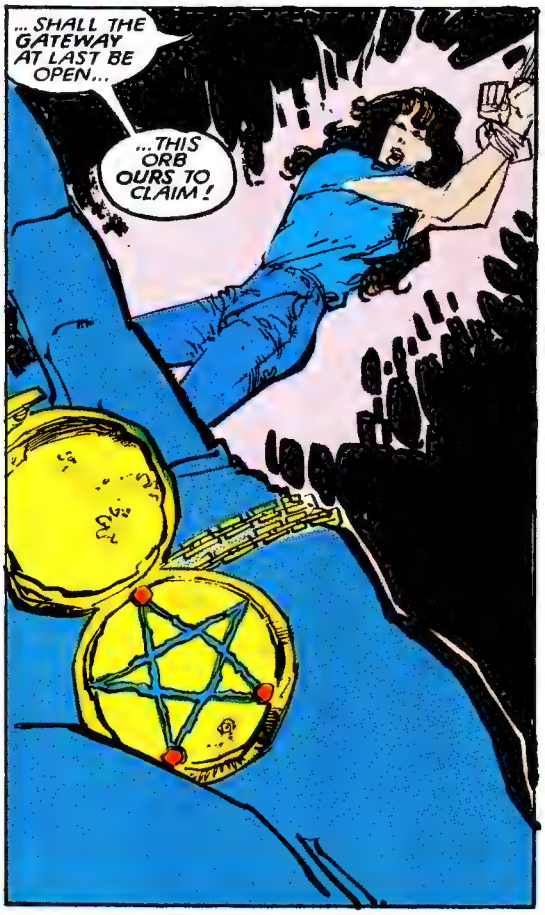

I WAS EVIL, DOUG. I DON'T DENY IT.
BUT NO MORE--THANKS TO THE BEYONDER.
I'M THE GIRL I SHOULD HAVE BEEN. IS THAT SO AWFUL?
SHOULD HE HAVE LEFT WELL ENOUGH ALONE-- AND ME AS I WAS? THANKS A LOT, PAL.
HE DIDN'T... DO ANYTHING TO ME, LIKE BRAIN-WASHING.
HE SHOWED ME A SMALL PART OF WHAT HE IS, AND WE MIGHT BE.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.
PLEASE--TRUST ME-- TAKE MY HAND.
LET ME SHOW YOU, GUYS. YOU WON'T BE SORRY.
NEVER!
'TIS BLASPHEMY YOU SPEAK! MY SOUL IS IN THE LORD'S HANDS, AN' I NEED PLACE NEITHER IT-- NOR MY FAITH-- ANYWHERE ELSE!
IF YOU ARE HAPPY, ILLYANA, THAT IS WONDERFUL. BUT I AM CONTENT WITH MY OWN BELIEFS. I FEEL NO NEED TO BE PART OF YOURS.
YOU MUST, SHAN.
I WILL NOT BE FORCED-- BY ANY-ONE, TO DO ANY-THING.
Y'ALL DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOW YOU!
SAMFRIEND?!
HE GRABBED AMARA--!
WARLOCK-- DON'T LET HIM TAKE HER INTO THE SUBWAY!
CONCERN-- APOLOGIES-- SELFRIENDS, IF SELF HAS HARMED YOU!
Boing

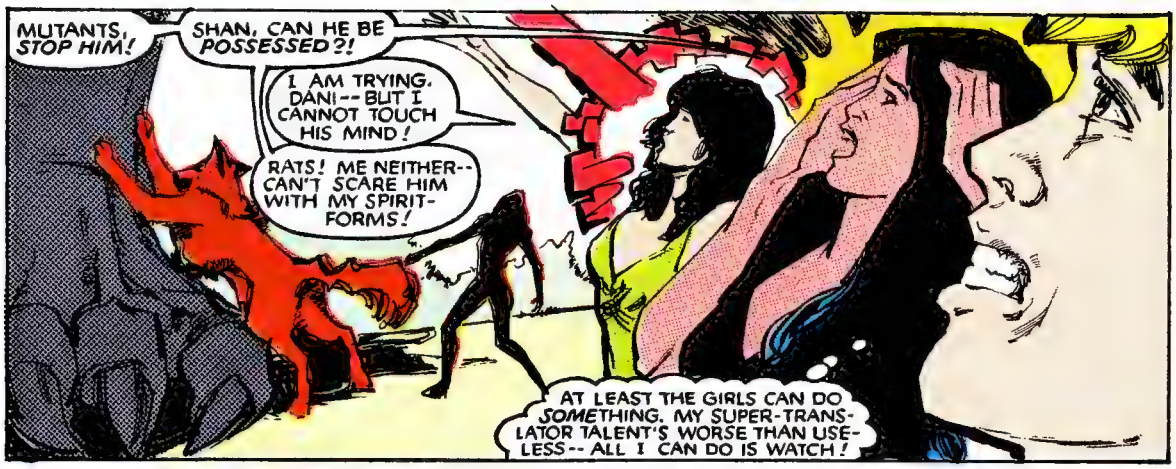

ALL RIGHT THEN, WARLOCK--
--YOU CAN JOIN US INSTEAD!
SELF REFUSES!
DUMMY, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
ALARM-- FUNDAMENTAL ALTERATION IN PRIME CIRCUITRY NETS!
CANNOT INHIBIT-- PERCEPTIONS CHANGING-- THOUGHTS... BELIEFS... DATA TWIST LOOP SCRAMBLE DUMP PURGE...
'LOCK'S FREAKING--
-- ILLYANA'S TURNING HIS HEAD INSIDE-OUT! DOING TO HIM WHAT THE BEYONDER MUST HAVE DONE TO HER!!
MAYBE I CAN RETURN THE COMPLIMENT-- SORT OF-- BY CONFRONTING HER WITH A SPIRIT-FORM OF WHATEVER SHE FEARS MOST!
THAT OUGHT'A BUY US TIME ENOUGH TO YANK WARLOCK TO SAFETY!
ASSUMING ANYWHERE'S SAFE ANYMORE.
SACRED ANCESTORS--
-- DID I DO THAT?!!?

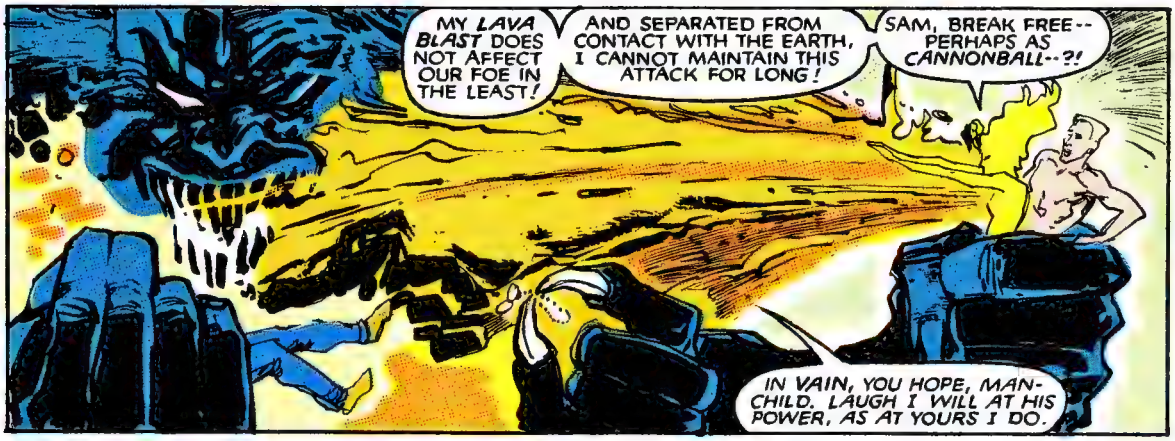

"NO! IT ISN'T ONE OF MY PSYCHIC HOLO-GRAMS!
"THAT HORROR'S REAL!


FOUGHT WELL, THE GUARDIAN DID!
KITTY?! SHE'S PART OF THE CRITTER'S NECKLACE!
IS HE TALKING ABOUT HER?!
BUT IN-EXPERIENCED, SHE WAS!


SHE KNEW NOT...
... HOW HER ELDRITCH BLADE TO WIELD.
NOW, WITH HER LIFESOUL...
...AND ONE MORE BESIDES...

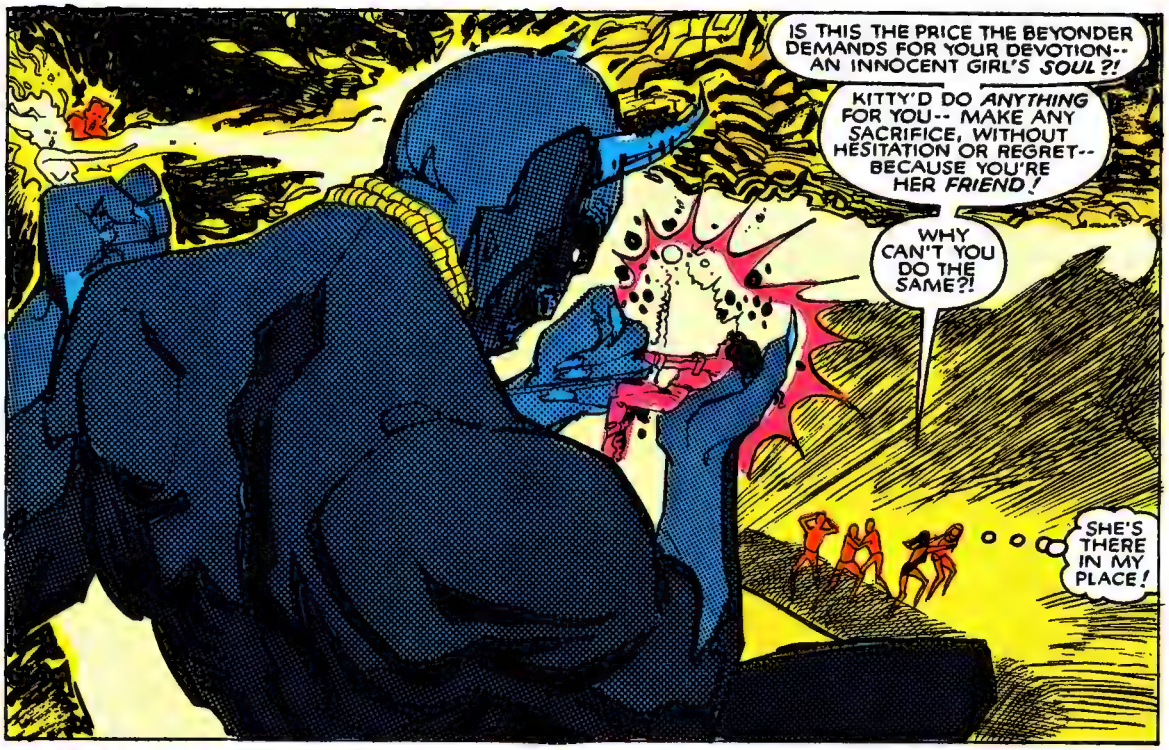

... SHALL THE GATEWAY AT LAST BE OPEN...
...THIS ORB OURS TO CLAIM!


MUTANTS, STOP HIM!
SHAN, CAN HE BE POSSESSED?!
I AM TRYING, DANI-- BUT I CANNOT TOUCH HIS MIND!
RATS! ME NEITHER-- CAN'T SCARE HIM WITH MY SPIRIT-FORMS!
AT LEAST THE GIRLS CAN DO SOMETHING. MY SUPER-TRANSLATOR TALENT'S WORSE THAN USELESS-- ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH!

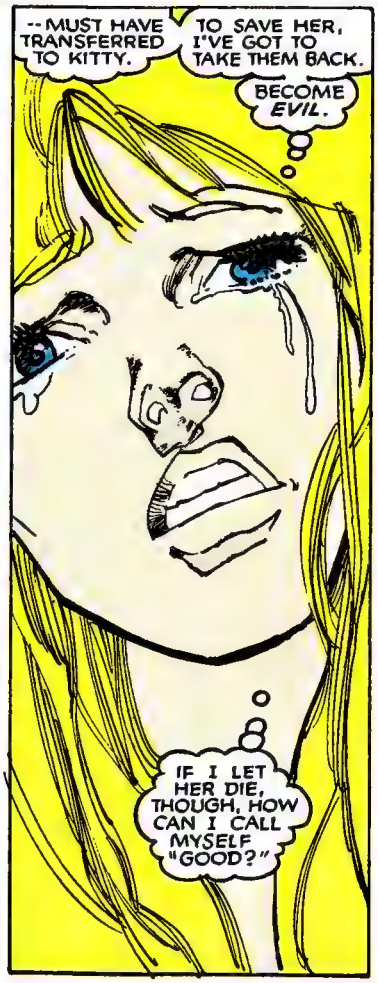

MY LAVA BLAST DOES NOT AFFECT OUR FOE IN THE LEAST!
AND SEPARATED FROM CONTACT WITH THE EARTH, I CANNOT MAINTAIN THIS ATTACK FOR LONG!
SAM, BREAK FREE-- PERHAPS AS CANNONBALL--?!
IN VAIN, YOU HOPE, MANCHILD. LAUGH I WILL AT HIS POWER, AS AT YOURS I DO.

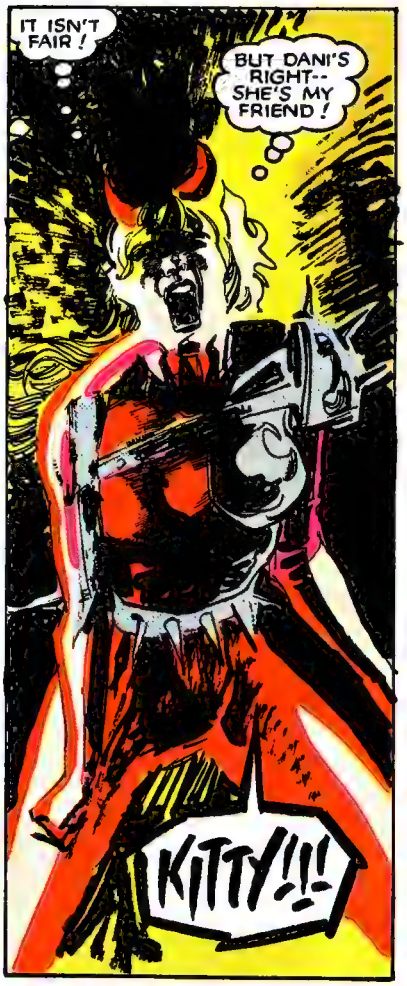
BEHOLD!
THE FOURTH BLOODSTONE--
--FORMED OF THE GUARDIAN'S ESSENCE.

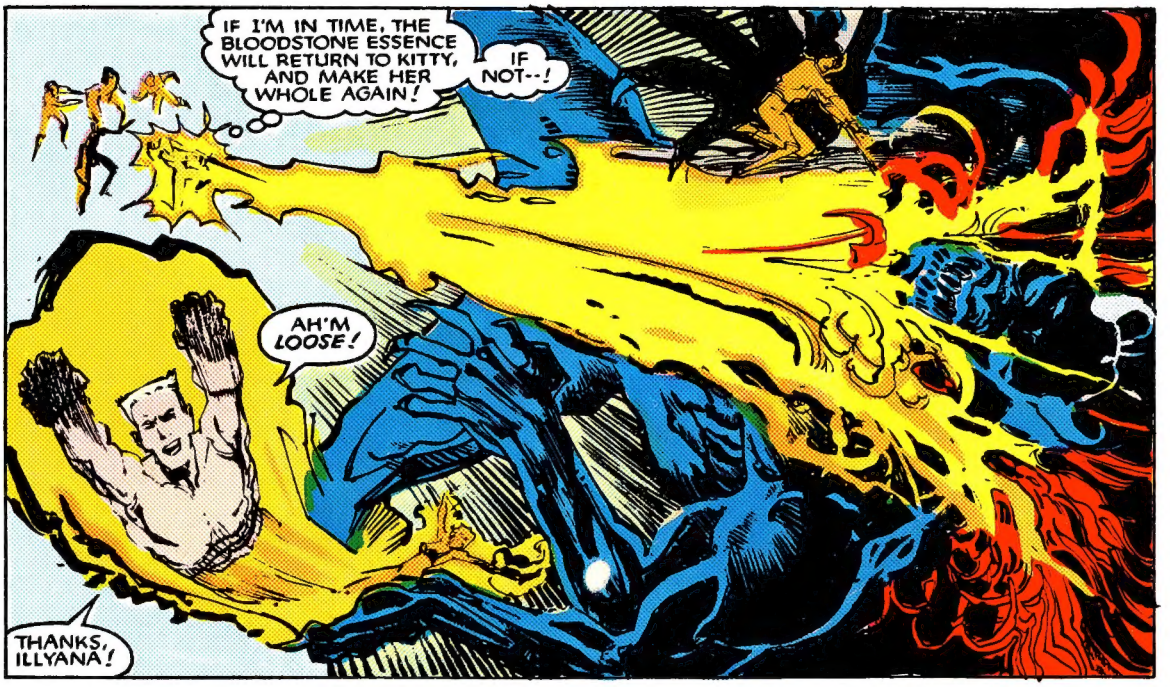
SHE'S YOUR BEST FRIEND, ILLYANA! HOW CAN YOU STAND BY AND WATCH HER BEING SLAUGHTERED?!
THE BEYONDER--
--A GREATER GOOD--!
ARE YOU SAYING KITTY ISN'T IMPORTANT--
--THAT SHE DOESN'T MATTER?!!


IS THIS THE PRICE THE BEYONDER DEMANDS FOR YOUR DEVOTION-- AN INNOCENT GIRL'S SOUL?!
KITTY'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU-- MAKE ANY SACRIFICE, WITHOUT HESITATION OR REGRET-- BECAUSE YOU'RE HER FRIEND!
WHY CAN'T YOU DO THE SAME?!
SHE'S THERE IN MY PLACE!

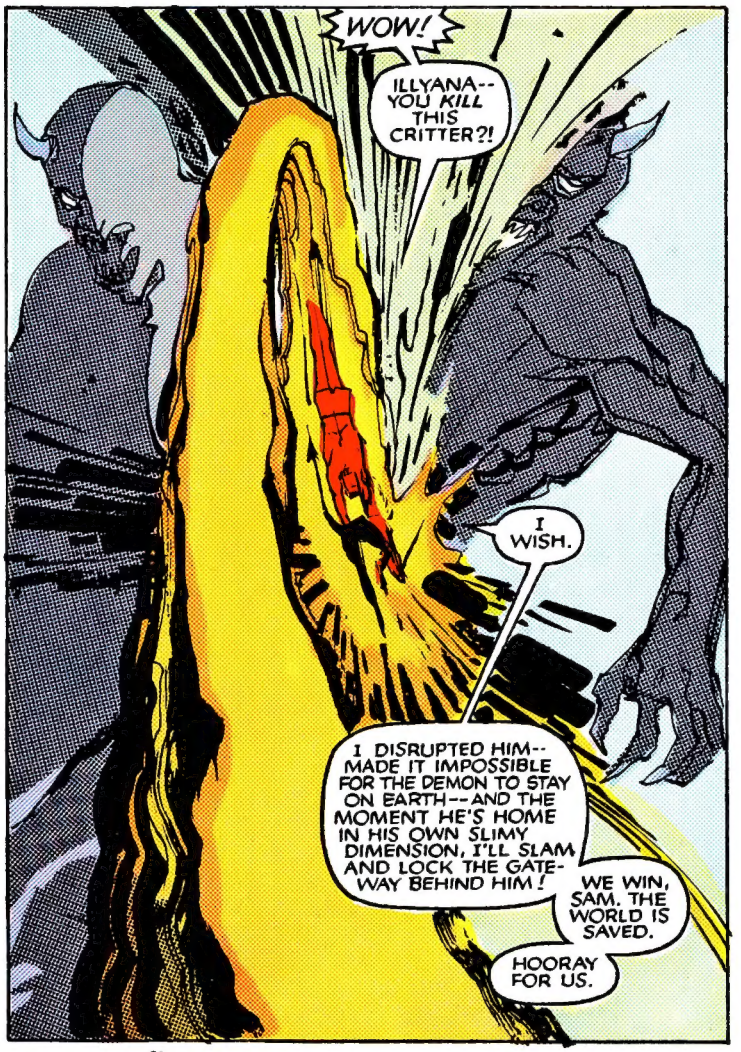
WHEN I WAS CLEANSED-- MY MAGICKS, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT GO WITH THEM--

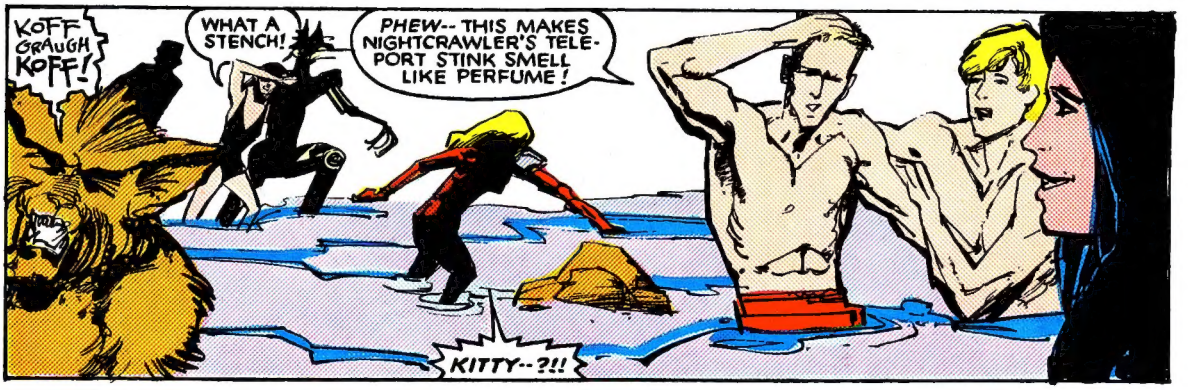

--MUST HAVE TRANSFERRED TO KITTY.
TO SAVE HER, I'VE GOT TO TAKE THEM BACK.
BECOME EVIL.
IF I LET HER DIE, THOUGH, HOW CAN I CALL MYSELF "GOOD?"

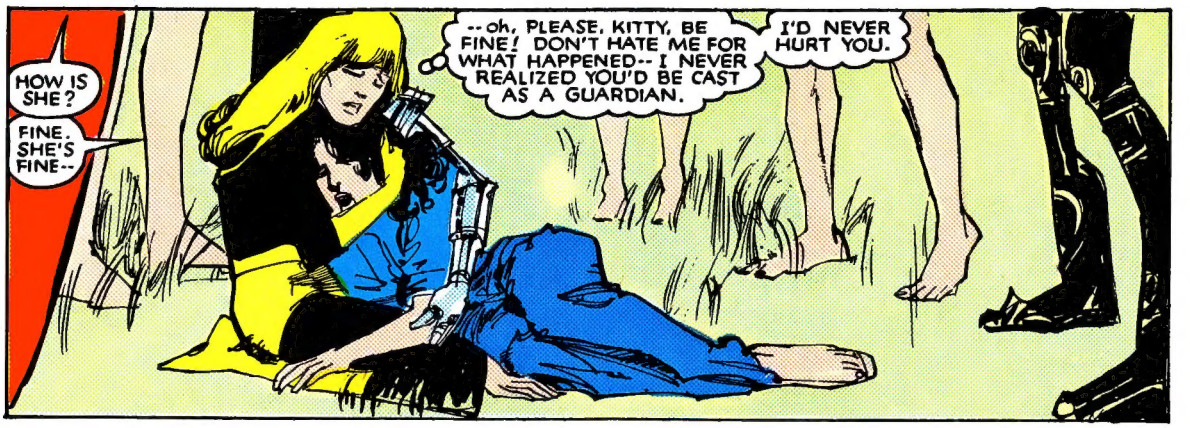

IT ISN'T FAIR!
BUT DANI'S RIGHT-- SHE'S MY FRIEND!
KITTY!!!


IF I'M IN TIME, THE BLOODSTONE ESSENCE WILL RETURN TO KITTY, AND MAKE HER WHOLE AGAIN!
IF NOT--!
AH'M LOOSE!
THANKS, ILLYANA!

SAM SOUNDS HAPPY.
ME, I WANT TO CRY.
I TOOK BACK MY EVIL SELF OF MY OWN FREE WILL I'LL NEVER BE RID OF IT.
CANNONBALL-- GIMME A LIFT!


WOW!
ILLYANA-- YOU KILL THIS CRITTER?!
I WISH.
I DISRUPTED HIM-- MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE DEMON TO STAY ON EARTH--AND THE MOMENT HE'S HOME IN HIS OWN SLIMY DIMENSION, I'LL SLAM AND LOCK THE GATE-WAY BEHIND HIM!
WE WIN, SAM. THE WORLD IS SAVED.
HOORAY FOR US.





HOW IS SHE?
FINE. SHE'S FINE--
--oh, PLEASE, KITTY, BE FINE! DON'T HATE ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED-- I NEVER REALIZED YOU'D BE CAST AS A GUARDIAN.
I'D NEVER HURT YOU.

NEXT

*the* BEYONDER'S VENGEANCE--

"IF I SHOULD DIE..."

# BULLPEN BULLETINS

**THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT CONTEST...**

. . . began more than a year ago. Participants were invited to send in completed pages of **The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book** or comparable samples showing their skills as Plotters, Scripters, Pencilers, Inkers, Letterers, or Colorists. The best in each category would win his or her first professional comics job.

Response to the **Try-Out Contest** was enormous—far beyond our wildest expectations. It took months longer than we anticipated to sort and judge the many thousands of entires. Finally, however, we've finished!

**AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .**

*Plotter and Scripter:* **Chuck Duffie, L.A., CA**
*Penciler:* **Mark Bagley, Marietta, FLA**
*Inker:* **Doug Hazlewood, Victoria, TX**
*Letterer:* **Robin Riggs, East Sussex, U.K.**
*Colorist:* **P. Jeanine Pasda, Bethlehem, PA**

For their absolutely outstanding entries, these fine people will each receive a classy certificate commemorating their victory, and their first regular professional assignment, which will be *finishing* the Spider-Man story "Personals" which was begun in the **Try-Out Book**. The result of their labors will be published next spring in a special giant-sized issue of **The Amazing Spider-Man**. And that, very likely, is just the beginning for our talented winners. Watch for their names in the future. I expect you'll be seeing a lot of them!

**CAN YOU STILL TRY OUT?**

Of *course* you can! The *contest* is over, but Marvel has always welcomed submissions (since *I've* been in charge, anyway) and always will. The need for new talent remains, and the opportunities for creators are better than ever.

You can still buy a copy of **The Official Marvel Comics Try-Out Book**, too. It can help you polish up your comics skills and prepare for a career in comics, and it's *the* best way to submit samples, because the pages of the **Try-Out Book** are designed to simulate the actual working conditions comics creators face. And, it has how-to instructions to boot! You can pick up a copy at your local comics specialty shop, or send a check for $12.95 (made out to Marvel Comics) to:

Marvel Comics
Dept. T
387 Park Ave South
New York, NY 10016

**GOOD-BYE!**

For now. See you next month when I reveal some of the plans for Marvel's 25th Anniversary celebration!

Stay well!

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

# CHECK LIST

- ☐ **THING #32**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #227**—The Kingpin finds a way to destroy DD, thanks to FRANK MILLER and DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI!
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #36**—The Beyonder offers Illyana salvation at a terrible price in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #11**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #5**
- ☐ **RED SONJA #12**
- ☐ **SQUADRON SUPREME (Limited Series) #6**
- ☐ **ROBOTIX #1**—A special one-shot by HERB TRIMPE!
- ☐ **CONAN ANNUAL #10**
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #3**—Featuring everyone from Cloak and Dagger to Doctor Strange.
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #273**—The Puma meets the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #314**—Guest starring Nighthawk from the *Squadron Supreme!*
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #17**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #31**
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #75**
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #3**—Experience issues #32–48!
- ☐ **LONGSHOT (Limited Series) #6**—The *double-sized* conclusion!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #19**—A *double-sized* extravaganza with guest stars galore!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #316**—With She-Hulk, Iron Man, Sub-Mariner and more!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #264**—Introducing the new Yellowjacket! She's bad!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #179**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #184**
- ☐ **X-MEN #202**—Rachel attempts to kill the Beyonder in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **ROM #75**—Concluding the saga of the Spaceknight!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #44**
- ☐ **NIGHTCRAWLER (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #5**
- ☐ **PUNISHER (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #3**—Featuring the complete origin of Dr. Doom, and a whole lot more!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #287**—It had to happen! The return of the FF's most deadly foe!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #203**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #111**—Meet that amazing spider-friend, the Beyonder, in this *Secret Wars II* cross-over!
- ☐ **THOR #364**—Thor croaks!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #13**
- ☐ **SECRET WARS II (Limited Series) #8**—The Beyonder decides to bring about a golden age on earth!!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #2**—Find out who Spidey's allies were in issues #24–50!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #1**—Cyclops, the Beast, Angel, and Iceman reunite with a surprise fifth member! This *double-sized* shocker of the year is brought to you by BOB LAYTON and JACKSON GUICE!
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #152**—This *double-sized* final issue is a *Secret Wars II* cross-over and an *X-Factor* tie-in! Miss it not!
- ☐ **DOCTOR WHO #17**
- ☐ **X-MEN ANNUAL #9**

**MARVEL MAGAZINES**

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #35**—Presenting a day in the life of the Marvel editors!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #120**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL #39: SANTA CLAUS, THE MOVIE**—The official Marvel adaptation by SID JACOBSON (writer) and FRANK SPRINGER (artist), with a painted cover by TOM PALMER.

**EPIC COMICS**

- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #12**
- ☐ **SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #7**
- ☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES (Limited Series) #1**—An alien stranded in Victorian England earns his livelihood by detecting crimes! Written by DAVID MICHELINIE with art by BRET BLEVINS.
- ☐ **DREADSTAR #22**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #7**
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #11**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS II (Limited Series) #1**—They're back with a bounty on their heads and trouble with the 4th Dimension! Written by DOUG MOENCH; painted by PAUL GULACY!

**STAR COMICS**

- ☐ **PLANET TERRY #11**—Meet Terry's father, Vermin the Vile!
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #6**—Lost . . . in the strangest part of Fraggle Rock!
- ☐ **STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #6**
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #2**—What are the Berbils?
- ☐ **MISTY #2**—Guest starring Millie the Model!
- ☐ **WALLY THE WIZARD #11**
- ☐ **TOP DOG #6**—Beware of those mad scientists, Frank 'n' Stein!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #6**

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST